GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:02.07.2009
MAINTENANCE OF RAIL BRIDGES
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausaheb

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old and outdated rail bridges in the country especially in the backward and rural areas which require strengthening and reconstruction on a large scale as on date;

(b) whether any comprehensive scheme has been chalked out for strengthening and reconstructing these old and damaged bridges in the country;and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 BY SHRI WAKCHAURE BHAUSAHEB R. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.07.2009 REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF RAIL BRIDGES.

(a) to (c): Information on Railway Bridges is maintained zone wise.Approximately 36,700 Rail Bridges on Indian Railway system are more than a century old.However,these bridges are safe for train operations. Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is an ongoing work on Indian Railways.Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field and not on the basis of age.Therefore, all old Bridges do not necessarily require rehabilitation/strengthening/rebuilding.

Certain Bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation etc., are classified as Distressed Bridges.These,however,are neither unsafe nor dilapidated Bridges.Priority is given to early rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of distressed Bridges.If required, suitable speed restrictions are imposed on such Bridges till rehabilitation/ rebuilding/strengthening is carried out.Sometimes the Bridges are strengthened due to the requirement of heavier axle loads and higher tractive effort.Based on such identification of Bridges,allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/strengthening/rebuilding duly prioritizing the works as per requirement.

A total of 913 no. of distressed Bridges have been rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened on Indian Railways since 2001-02 upto March,2009.A total of 48 no. of distressed Bridges exist on Indian Railways system as on 01.04.2009,out of which rehabilitation of 3 no. of distressed Bridges has been completed upto 31.05.09.